

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully studied the outstanding Official Action. The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

In the application as examined, claims 1-15 are pending. Claims 3, 9 and 15 are currently amended. Claims 4-8 and 10-14 are unchanged. New claim 16 is added. Claims 1-2 are cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 1-15 stand provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-15 of U.S. Patent Application 10/228,841.

Applicants respectfully submit that U.S. Patent Application 10/228,841 issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,778,083 on August 17, 2004 and that the claims of the present invention and the claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,778,083 are patently distinct and that the double patenting rejection under 35 USC 101 should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-2 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kadner (U.S. 6,069,563).

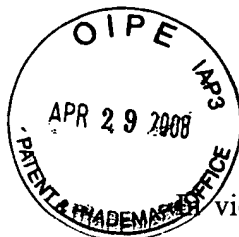
Kadner describes a seal system including a custom integrated circuit utilizing a special CMOS gate-array technology that can be utilized to build inexpensive tamper-resistant electronic seals.

The allowability of claims 3-14, if rewritten in independent form and overcoming the double patenting rejection, is noted with appreciation.

Applicants have rewritten claims 3 and 9 in independent form, to include all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims, and claims 3 and 9 are therefore allowable.

Claim 15 has been amended to depend from claim 9 instead of cancelled claim 1. New claim 16 is similar in scope to claim 15 and depends from claim 3.

Claims 4-8 and 16 each depend from claim 3 and recite additional patentable subject matter and are therefore patentable. Claims 10-15 each depend from claim 9 and recite additional patentable subject matter and are therefore patentable.

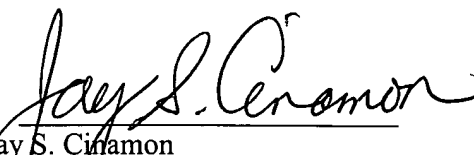


view of the foregoing remarks, all of the claims are deemed to be allowable. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Please charge any fees which may be due and which have not been submitted herewith to our Deposit Account No. 01-0035.

Respectfully submitted,

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